



Karol Swartzlander, Executive Director  
Gavin Newsom, Governor

August 30, 2024

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**THE HONORABLE GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR**  
**STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
**1021 O Street, Suite 9000**  
**Sacramento, CA 95184**

Re: **ASSEMBLY BILL 2207 (Reyes) – CCoA Sponsored**

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the California Commission on Aging (CCoA), **sponsor of AB 2207 (Reyes)**, I respectfully request your signature on this measure. The bill passed the Assembly 76-0 and the Senate 39-0.

The CCoA is established in the Older Californians Act as an independent advisory body and principal advocate before the Governor, the Legislature, and State and federal agencies on behalf of California's older adults. Commission members represent the State's cultural and geographic diversity. Commissioners are consumers and providers of aging services, as well as researchers and academicians with decades of professional expertise within and outside the field of aging.

AB 2207 would increase the representation of older adults on three state boards, commissions, and advisory committees. This bill adds older adult representation to the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Advisory Committee, the California Behavioral Health Planning Council, and the California Workforce Development Board.

In California, task forces, councils, commissions, and work groups provide the foundation for systemic change, giving individuals who represent larger groups a voice in their government. When these advisory groups function optimally, they allow citizens to influence decisions that shape the quality of life for the residents of our State.



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Appointees are responsible for advising and reviewing policy and developing recommendations to address the issues facing the groups they represent.

While the current authority for making appointments does not exclude representation by individuals who represent the needs or perspectives of older adults, it fails to recognize these individuals as a requirement. The lack of involvement denies the reality and viewpoint of the older adult stakeholders, which may have conflicting goals. Additionally, the absence of representation of older adult stakeholders may result in system goals being prioritized over the goals of older adults.

California is changing, and it is aging. California's over-60 population is projected to diversify and grow faster than any other age group. By 2030, 10.8 million Californians will be older adults, making up one-quarter of the State's population. This bill will improve outcomes by including people whose needs and life experiences differ from the majority. This will help policymakers understand situations from other positions and to consider others' beliefs, experiences, and perspectives.

AB 2207 will ensure the interests of older adults, as reflected by state agencies, providers, and advocacy organizations that represent them, are "at the table." This bill seeks to promote equity and inclusion, recognizing that no policy should be decided without the full and direct participation of members of the group(s) affected by that policy. To promote a "California for All," as prioritized in the Governor's Master Plan on Aging, the proposals and programs of the State must include the representation and participation of older adults in the decision-making process.

The CCoA is pleased to be the sponsor of AB 2207 and respectfully asks for your signature in enacting this measure.

If you have any questions, you may contact me or Karol Swartzlander, CCoA Executive Director, at [karol.swartzlander@ccoa.ca.gov](mailto:karol.swartzlander@ccoa.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cheryl Brown".

Cheryl Brown, Chair  
California Commission on Aging